

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: HART, ET AL.) Attorney Docket No.: CBUS-1631-AV
Serial No.: Continuation of 10/438,016) Group Art Unit: 3731
Filed: Herewith) Examiner: Reip
For: SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS WITH)
IMPROVED TRACTION)

Mail Stop Patent Application - Fee
Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Please amend the above application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Insert before the first line of the specification the following sentence:

--This is a continuation of co-pending application No. 10/438,016, filed May 15, 2003, which is a continuation of co-pending application No. 09/355,679, filed August 9, 1999, which is a 371 of PCT/US98/02276, filed February 3, 1998 based on Provisional Application No. 60/037,077, filed February 3, 1997.--